

Use of Force Committee Meeting 14 October, 2015

Prepared by: Jason Williams, Training Coordinator

Members Present: Sheriff Donald Keeler, Captain Drew Bloom, Chief Lianne Tuomey, Officer Scott Fisher, Sergeant George Crowe, Sergeant Matthew Murano, Wade Johnson, Sergeant Eugene Duplissis, Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel, Warden Russell Shopland

Other persons present: None

Academy Representatives: Training Coordinator Jason Williams

Members Absent: Lieutenant Michael Henry, Chief Christopher Brickell, Corporal Michael Akerlind

Meeting called to order: 10:01

Old Business

ISSUE 1: Recognition of Lieutenant Hollwedel's years of service to the Committee

- Sheriff Keeler began the meeting by recognizing that this will be the final meeting that Lieutenant Hollwedel will be a member of the Vermont Law Enforcement community and a member of the use of force committee. Sheriff Keller extended his appreciation to Lieutenant Hollwedel for his many years of service as a committee member and as an instructor at the academy.

Informational, no formal action taken



ISSUE 2: Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes

- TC Williams asked the Committee to vote to accept or reject the previous meeting's minutes from 15 July, 2015. A copy of the minutes was passed around the table for members to review.

Officer Fisher entered a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written.

Motion seconded by Sergeant Crowe.

Motion passed unanimously

ISSUE 3: Tiered certification process for firearms end users through Master Instructor

- T.C. Williams presented a second draft of a tiered certification process for identifying different levels of law enforcement firearms end users and instructors. This issue was addressed at the previous committee meeting with a first draft, and the first draft was returned to be restructured to mirror the certification levels for Use of Force and Tactics Instructors for consistency. While the committee members present agreed that there should be a tiered certification process in place for Firearms Instructors, there was a significant disagreement amongst the membership on what that process should entail. A lengthy discussion ensued on this matter.

Officer Fisher entered a motion that this matter be tabled, and that members would have an opportunity to submit their ideas for revisions of the process to T.C. Williams for presentation at the next meeting.

Motion seconded by Sergeant Crowe.

Motion passed unanimously

ISSUE 4: 2017 Refresher training for firearms instructors

- During the current refresher trainings currently being held, several Firearms Instructors in attendance have been asking if they will be required to pass firearm proficiencies for the 2017 refreshers, as suggested earlier by the committee. T.C. Williams asked the committee to begin contemplating this early due to the logistics and planning required to make this happen.

Informational, no formal action taken

ISSUE 5: Patrol Rifle Qualification Course

- T.C. Williams submitted a revision to the proposed state patrol rifle qualification course. The matter had been postponed from the January, 2015 meeting for revisions to be completed to the course. Discussion ensued on whether the authority to conduct and report patrol rifle qualifications should be expanded to all firearms instructors and not limited to patrol rifle instructors.

Chief Tuomey entered a motion that the language of the course be amended to read, "this course can be administered by a firearms instructor who is qualified to carry a patrol rifle."

Motion seconded by Sergeant Crowe.

A lengthy discussion on this motion ensued.

Final vote was taken by show of hands, with 5 in favor, 3 abstentions and 2 opposed. Motion failed.

- The committee adjourned for lunch at 1150 hours and reconvened at 1205 hours.
- Discussions on the previous motion resumed with no apparent resolution that was going to occur, and Chief Tuomey withdrew her motion.
- Another discussion ensued regarding this course, with concern that the course could not be run with multiple shooters at one time due to safety concerns. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Warden Shopland entered a motion to table this matter until the next meeting.

Motion seconded by Chief Tuomey.

Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

ISSUE 1: Shotgun qualification courses

- Chief Tuomey had identified at an earlier meeting that the shotgun courses of fire were an overall hit score and not an individual string pass course. The question was raised as to whether that should be changed for consistency. It was agreed that the course was working fine the way it was currently structured.

No formal action taken.

ISSUE 2: SIM training recommendation

- Warden Shopland to the committee that the Fish and Wildlife Department has a program that they use for ensuring safety during SIM training that he would like to submit to the committee for review. Warden Shopland stated that he would forward the program information to T.C. Williams for distribution to the group.

Informational, no formal action taken.

ISSUE 3: Impending resignation from the committee by Chief Brickell

- T.C. Williams notified the committee that Chief Brickell will become the Chair of the Council in the near future, and that Chief Brickell had suggested that a replacement for him be considered. Sheriff Keeler indicated that he has begun work on this matter with the Vermont Chief's Association.

No formal action taken.

ISSUE 4: Request for recommendation to fill Lieutenant Hollwedel's vacant seat

- TC Williams asked the members to begin considering who should be recommended to the Executive Director for appointment to the committee in the seat that is being vacated by Lieutenant Hollwedel. Two ideas that were suggested were a member of a Sheriff's Department or a member of the Academy's core instructor group. Sheriff Keeler asked the membership to submit suggestions to T.C. Williams as soon as possible for submission to the Executive Director.

No formal action taken.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:55

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Williams
Training Coordinator
Vermont Police Academy